York 9/12mo '72

Dear Dr Gray

Thy favour is to hand, accompanying the ferns &c from Dr Kellogg (Boxes & package by post) with which I am very much pleased. They came in excellent condition. The enclosed letter for Dr Hooker is duly posted on. I spoke in my last of sending £25 direct to Dr Kellogg. It occurs to me however that it might be difficult from my not having ~~a~~ his distinct address, & I hear a rumour too that the Pacific RR. is blocked up by snow; although I do not imagine that American energy will allow such a hindrance to last long, yet I thought it was best not to send till I heard from thee again. I do not think Aspid^{m} fragrans would be worth a special journey, unless it could be obtained in large quantity — say 500 roots & from thy previous letter on this subject, I imagine that it is rare everywhere, & not likely to be attainable in anything approaching such quantity without seriously "robbing" the station, which I object to.

Thine very sincerely

J Backhouse

The roots of Pellæa densa, Bridgesii &c appear in fine health. We sow the Torreya seeds at once. Thanks for "the last of the Aquilegias" They are beginning to [illegible] state of [illegible].